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BOROUGH of WAREHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1964

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FOREWORD

Public Health Office,
Health Centre,
Swanage, Dorset.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Wareham

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my first Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the Borough of Wareham for the year 1964. Dr. E. J. O'Keeffe, your Medical Officer of Health for over twenty-five years retired at the end of November. I assumed duty at the beginning of that month.

There was no serious outbreak of infectious disease during the year.

The estimated population for the Borough at mid 1964 showed an increase of 70 on the mid 1963 estimate, and 152 on the Census population of 1961.

Undue importance cannot be attached to the rates for vital statistics in the report which are based on very small figures. Taking this into account the rates for the Borough are comparable with those for England and Wales as a whole.

As you are aware the sewage disposable plant in the Borough is inadequate. It is hoped that the Inquiry into the compulsory purchase of land adjoining the Sandford sewage works will not delay unduly the joint scheme with the Wareham and Purbeck Rural District for new sewage works.

The Public Health Inspector has brought to my notice that he is unable to visit food premises as often as desirable as his time is fully committed. It is hoped that the assistance he has been promised will improve the position.

Before the end of the year arrangements had been made for the Child Welfare Clinic to be transferred in January 1965, to the County Mobile Clinic which will be stationed on the Quay beside the Church Hall on the second and fourth Thursdays each month. It now remains for the Family Planning Association to find new premises for their sessions as the hall used at present is not satisfactory. I feel that the various clinics held in Wareham will never be satisfactorily housed until a permanent clinic is built in the Borough.

The report is set out in sections in the following order:-

	Pages
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I am indebted to Mr. J. R. Tanner, your Public Health Inspector, for his assistance in preparing this report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

W. E. HADDEN

Medical Officer of Health

August, 1965.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

E. J. O'KEEFFE, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Retired 28.11.64)

W. E. HADDEN, S.B.St.J., M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.T.M.& H., D.A.,D.P.H. (Commenced duties 2.11.64)

Public Health Inspector

J. R. TANNER, M.S.I.A.

The Medical Officer of Health holds in addition the following appointments:-

Medical Officer of Health to the Swanage Urban District Council and to the Wareham and Purbeck Rural District Council. Senior Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer, Dorset County Council.

Office accommodation and clerical assistance are provided for the Medical Officer of Health jointly by the Authorities concerned.

The Public Health Inspector in addition to his statutory duties is also the Borough Surveyor and Petroleum Officer.

The Committees of the Council concerned with matters of public health are the Law and General Purposes Committee, the Waterworks and Sewerage Works Committee and the Housing Committee.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the Borough		710 acres
Population	at Census 1961 ...	3,098
	as estimated by Registrar General mid 1963 ...	3,180
	as estimated by Registrar General mid 1964 ...	3,250
Number of inhabited houses ...	at end of 1963 ...	984
Number of inhabited houses ...	at end of 1964 ...	1,015
Total rateable value at 1st. April, 1964		£115,818
Product of a 1d. rate 31st. March, 1964		£470. 14. 11.

VITAL STATISTICS

Area comparability factors - Births 1.21 Deaths 0.56

Live Births	Total	Male	Female	Comparative Rates: Wareham Borough	Comparative Rates: England & Wales
Total registered ...	54	34	20		
Legitimate ...	51	31	20		
Illegitimate ...	3	3	-		
Rate per 1000 population 16.6				20.5	18.4
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births				5.5	

Still Births	Total	Male	Female		
Total registered ...	-	-	-		
Legitimate ...	-	-	-		
Illegitimate ...	-	-	-		
Rate per 1000 total live and still births ...				Nil	16.3

Deaths	Total	Male	Female		
Total registered	63	35	28		
Rate per 1000 population 19.4				10.8	11.3

Infant Deaths (under 1 year)	Total	Male	Female
Total registered ...	2	1	1
Legitimate ...	2	1	1
Illegitimate ...	-	-	-

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births ...	37.0	20.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	39.2	
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	Nil	

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1000 total live births) ... 18.5

Early neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1000 total live births 18.5

Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1000 total live and still births) 18.5

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths ... ... Nil

Rate per 1000 total live and still births ... Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1964

(Registrar General's Official Return)

Cause of Death	Total all Ages		Under 4 Weeks		4 weeks & under 1 year		1 -		5 -		15 -		25 -		35 -		45 -		55 -		65 -		75 & over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F	M.	F.	M.	F.
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	3	3	2
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	4
18 Coronary disease, angina	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	3	1
20 Other heart disease	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2
21 Other circulatory disease	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
23 Pneumonia	7	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	6	6
24 Bronchitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
25 Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
33 Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total all Causes	35	28	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	5	4	5	5	21	17

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The Poole and East Dorset Water Board supply and distribute water to the Borough. I am indebted to the Board's Engineer and Manager for most of the following information.

With the completion of the main from Holton Heath to Wareham at the beginning of the year the whole of the Borough was supplied with water from the Sturminster Marshall and Corfe Mullen wells and boreholes. The water from Corfe Mullen is softened but that from Sturminster Marshall is not. This led to complaints of hardness of the new supply as previously all the water to the Borough had been supplied from the Worgret well which is particularly soft. Part of the Borough however again received water from Worgret towards the end of the year.

Source and Treatment Applied

Source	Type of Source	Depth	Treatment Applied
Corfe Mullen	Well & Boreholes	170 ft.	Lime softening, rapid gravity filtration, chlorination and post ammoniation.
Sturminster Marshall	Well	280 ft.	Chlorination and post ammoniation.
Worgret	Well	30 ft.	Iron removal and pH correction, pressure filtration and chlorination.

Plumbo Solvency

Only the raw water from Worgret had any plumbo solvency and that was corrected during the iron removal process continuously applied at the pumping station. During the year the Board pumped 45,909,000 gallons from the Worgret well.

Bacteriological Examinations

14 samples of the raw Worgret water were taken by the Board's Inspector 13 of which fell into Class I of the Ministry of Health's bacteriological classification, the remaining sample fell into Class IV. The Board's Inspector also took 34 samples of the distributed water, 33 of these were placed in Class I, the remaining sample falling into Class II.

The Public Health Inspector took 16 samples from consumers' taps for bacteriological examination during the year. These samples were all reported as satisfactory.

Chemical Analyses

Frequent checks of chlorine residual were made in the control of treatment plants and in samples taken from mains and consumers' taps throughout the area of supply. Chemical Analyses of raw and treated water were also made.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

During the year agreement was reached with the Rural District Council in regard to the provision of a joint sewage disposal works at Sandford. Unfortunately, difficulty arose in connection with the acquisition of the proposed site and at the end of the year an inquiry into a Compulsory Purchase Order was pending.

The existing site is now grossly overloaded and is now at a stage whereby proper sewage purification and disposal are not possible.

Since the scheme was initiated in 1960, no formal complaints of smell have been received from residents on the Sandford Road, but when the wind is blowing from the south-east there is some justification for complaint. Residents were, however, informed that the site would be eventually abolished and they are as anxious as anyone to see the new Joint Works in operation.

The sewerage system in addition to serving the Borough receives sewage from some 60 dwellings in the Bestwall area and some 50 dwellings in the Carey Road area; both situated in the adjoining Rural District. The difficulties at the Old Granary now appear to have been overcome.

Number of houses not connected to the sewer	11
Number of houses with pail closets	Nil
Number of houses with cesspools or septic tanks	11
Number of cesspools/septic tanks abolished during the year	1
Number of houses connected to the sewer during the year	49

The sewerage system consists of three pumping stations situated at Bestwall, North Bridge and Northport and a disposal works situated on eight acres of land at Sandford Lane. The Carey Estate development discharge is pumped into the sewer in Carey Road which gravitates to the Northport Station. The new Sandford Road Housing Estate discharge is pumped to the sewer in Sandford Road which also gravitates to the Northport Station.

The Disposal Works consist of:-

1 Balancing tank - capacity 7,814 gallons.

2 Dortmund tanks - capacity 39,060 gallons

8 Sludge beds - area 8,100 sq. ft.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Summary of Inspections

Bakehouses	2	Infectious Disease	1
Building Byelaws	307	Public Lavatories	4
Butchers Shops	12	Public Health Acts	15
Cafes	6	Petroleum Acts	2
Caravan Sites	4	Refuse Collection and Disposal	2
Dairies	1	Schools	5
Drainage and sewerage	125	Sewage Disposal and Sewerage	52
Food Premises	25	Market	1
Food Inspection	3	Miscellaneous	231
Factories	7	Samples - Water	16
Housing (Housing Acts)	45	" - Food	4
" (General and Housing Repairs)	515		
" (Capital Works)	28		

Total 1,413

Statutory and Informal Notices

Notices	No. Served	Complied With	Outstanding
Informal	5	5	Nil
Statutory	Nil	Nil	Nil

Control of Moveable Dwellings

The one caravan site in the Borough is situated on the North Causeway and the Lessee is permitted to station up to 44 caravans including 20 residential. The site is licensed under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development, 1960. All services are provided and the sanitary block is drained to a septic tank and filter; the septic tank is regularly emptied twice a year. Frequent visits are made to this site which is maintained in an excellent condition.

A second Licence has now been granted for a residential site near the Railway Station. This will provide for eight caravans. Each caravan will be provided with all services and connected individually to the Council's sewer.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The Council own one "Karrier" Bantam Vehicle and one Gibson Compression Vehicle. House and trade refuse collections are made weekly. Collections are normally carried out in two days. Difficulty is still being experienced in obtaining labour for this service. It is felt that ultimately the Council will have to introduce the paper sack method of collection which will make the employees task much less arduous and the collection more hygienic.

Street Cleansing

The main streets are cleansed and swept daily and the minor streets as often as possible, on an average once per week. Litter is still deposited in the streets but the Council have provided more litter baskets in the shopping area and it is hoped that this will make some improvement. Labour is a problem with this service, and it is hoped that soon some reliable and effective mechanical equipment will be available for use by the smaller Authority.

Public Lavatories

There are two conveniences in the Borough situated at Howards Lane (women and men) and St. Johns Hill (men only). These are cleansed daily and well maintained. During the summer months public toilet facilities are inadequate. The provision of a new block in the St. John Hill area which would replace the present small block which is inadequate is necessary. The lavatories are subject to hooliganism from time to time but this is inevitable in unattended toilets.

Swimming Baths

There is one swimming bath in the Borough at the County Modern School for the use of the pupils. Bathing takes place in the River Frome near the Quay during the summer months when various events take place. There is no public swimming bath in the Borough.

Smoke Abatement and Clean Air Act, 1956.

No action was necessary under this Act during the year.

Petroleum Acts and Regulations

11 licences are in force for the storage of petroleum spirit. Occasional visits are made in respect of these.

Disinfestation

No infestations were reported during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

All bottled milk comes from outside the Borough. All milk sold is either "Pasteurised", "Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised" or "Tuberculin Tested" as the Borough is part of a specified area under Section 37 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Number of milk distributors on Register 31.12.64 ... 11

Milk Sampling

During the year 22 samples of milk were taken in the Borough by the Food and Drug Authority for examination. 21 samples passed the statutory tests and 1 sample failed the statutory tests.

Food Inspected and Condemned

Tinned goods	80 lbs.
Imported pigs' liver	10 lbs.

There are no slaughterhouses in the Borough.

Food Premises

(1) Number of Food Premises by Type of Business in the Area

Grocers	10	Bakehouses	2	Cafes and restaurants	5
Greengrocers	4	Fish Shops	3	Licensed premises including 3 hotels	14
Butchers	4	Fried Fish Shops	2		
Dairies	1	Sweets and Confectionery	7		

(2) Number of Food Premises by Type Registered

(a) Under Section 16 of the Food And Drugs Act, 1955.

Manufacture of sausages and preserved foods	6
Fish Frying Premises	2
Sale of ice-cream	20

(b) Under Milk and Dairies Regulations

Dairy premises	1

(3) Number of Inspections of Registered Food Premises

Premises for manufacture of sausages	13
Fish frying premises	2
Ice-cream premises	26
Dairy premises	1

Inspection of Food Premises, Cafes, etc.

Visits were carried out to a number of food premises in the Borough but in no cases were formal actions necessary.

Food sampling of meat and other foods continued for a further period at the beginning of the year with a view to obtaining evidence of salmonella infection and its prevalence in meat.

	No. of Samples	Remarks
Minced beef	3	Satisfactory
Pork Sausage	1	"

A report was received of a working party set up by the Public Health Laboratory Service to investigate salmonellae in abattoirs, butchers' shops and home produced meat, and their relation to human infection.

Informal notices served during the year ... 1

HOUSING

42 private dwellings were erected during the year. 6 Council houses were erected.

The Council propose to erect 12 flats and 4 maisonettes at Wyatts Lane/Church Street and a further 12 houses on the Sandford Road Estate which will complete the latter estate.

Number of houses inspected	8
Number of house inspections made	20
Number of informal notices served	1
Number of informal notices complied with	1
Number of Statutory notices served	Nil
Number of houses reported under Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957	Nil

Action taken by the Local Authority in respect of such houses:-

(a) Demolition Orders made	Nil
(b) Undertakings accepted for:-	
(i) Closure	5
(ii) Reconditioning	Nil
(iii) Other action	Nil

Number of houses included in clearance areas for the year - Nil

Overcrowding

No cases of statutory overcrowding were reported during the year.

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959
Housing Act, 1964

The following grants were made during the year:-

Discretionary Grants in respect of 20 dwellings.
Standard Grants in respect of 5 dwellings.
Total improved to date 115 dwellings.

No applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair.

Housing Applications

Persons residing in the Borough	48
Persons residing outside the Borough	17
Aged persons (Borough bungalows)	52

Housing Programme	No. of Houses Proposed	Completed in 1964	Completed since 1945
Sandford Road	36	6	18
Brixeys Lane	9 (flats)	-	9
Church Street/Wyatts Lane	16 (12 flats)	-	-

New Houses

Total number erected during 1964 ... 48

Number erected with State assistance -

(a) by Local Authority	6
(b) by other Bodies or Persons ...	Nil

Houses Owned by the Local Authority	Built Pre-War	Built since 1945	Total
Permanent	103	174	277
Prefabricated	-	10	10

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease in the district continues to remain low. No case of diphtheria, acute poliomyelitis, enteric fever (typhoid and paratyphoid) or food poisoning was notified during the year. Also there was no case of the international quarantinable diseases, i.e. plague, cholera, yellow fever, smallpox, typhus and relapsing fever in the district.

The absence of cases of diphtheria and poliomyelitis, and the relative few cases of whooping cough can be attributed to the effective immunisation of infants and young children against these diseases. Babies are immunised with diphtheria and whooping cough vaccine combined with tetanus (lockjaw) vaccine in the first six months of life. They are given a reinforcing dose at the age of eighteen months and again against diphtheria and tetanus at four-and-half years prior to entering school. There was evidence that a disease resembling mild whooping cough developed in some children especially those who had been immunised against whooping cough. Whether this was a modified whooping cough or a mild disease due to a related organism was not clear.

The scheme for immunisation against acute poliomyelitis includes all persons up to forty years of age and certain priority groups above this age likely to be exposed to special risk of infection. Almost all immunisation against poliomyelitis is given by mouth with a modified live virus suspended in syrup or dropped on to sugar. Very few persons ask for the Salk vaccine given by injection. An oral reinforcing dose is given to children when they enter school.

Primary vaccination against smallpox for babies is now performed between twelve months and twenty-four months as advised by the Ministry of Health as being the safest time for this procedure.

Immunisation with B.C.G. to prevent tuberculosis is carried out in secondary schools in the area by medical officers of the Local Health Authority. Babies requiring B.C.G., though being born into families in which there has been a case of tuberculosis, are immunised at the nearest Chest Clinic.

Scarlet fever: although a mild disease now, scarlet fever is still notifiable.

Whooping cough: only one case of whooping cough was notified during the year.

Measles: 1964 was not an epidemic year, but it was noticeable that cases of measles started to occur in the last quarter of the year. Ninety-four cases out of a total 105 were notified in the last quarter.

Tuberculosis: there were no new cases of respiratory or other forms of tuberculosis notified during the year.

Vaccination and Immunisation Statistics, Wareham Borough 1964

(P) Primary Dose (R) Reinforcing Dose

Poliomyelitis					Diphtheria		Tetanus		Whooping cough		Smallpox	
Oral		Salk										
3 doses	R	P	3rd.	4th.	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R
97	82	1	1	1	48	87	48	87	44	53	23	1

Infectious Disease Notification (Corrected) Figures

Disease	1st. Qtr.	2nd. Qtr.	3rd. Qtr.	4th. Qtr.	Total	Admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	10	1	2	1	14	-
Whooping cough	-	-	1	-	1	-
Measles	2	-	9	94	105	-
Dysentery	-	1	-	-	1	1
Tuberculosis - respiratory	-	-	-	-	-	-
- other forms	-	-	-	-	-	-

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified During 1964

Disease	Total	Age Group									
		0-	1 -	2 -	3 -	4 -	5 -	10 -	15 -	25+	A.U.
Scarlet Fever	14	-	1	1	1	1	8	1	1	-	-
Whooping cough	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	105	1	15	15	17	4	49	4	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

Scabies and Verminous Conditions

There were no cases of scabies or verminous conditions reported during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - Section 47. Removal of Persons in Need of Care and Attention to Suitable Premises.

It was not found necessary to take formal action under this section of the Act during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	35	7	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority exclud- outworkers premises	-	-	-	-
Total ...	38	7	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which Defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Re-medied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

PART VIII of the Act

OUTWORK - Sections 133 and 134

Outworkers - Nil